



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
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SECRETARY

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Re: FY2009 DCS Annual Grant Round

Dear Prospective Applicant:

I am pleased to announce that my office, through the Division of Conservation Services (DCS), **in anticipation of, and contingent upon, the availability of funds**, will conduct the annual Fiscal Year 2009 grant round for the state LAND and PARC Grant Programs and for the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Program. The filing deadline is 3 p.m. on Tuesday, July 15, 2008.

LOCAL ACQUISITION FOR NATURAL DIVERSITY: LAND GRANT PROGRAM
(referenced as the Self-Help Program, 301 CMR 5.00; MGL C. 132A §11)

The LAND Program provides funds to municipal conservation commissions for the purchase of conservation land. The priority for this year's LAND grant round will be for the protection of sensitive water resources, landscape conservation, and biodiversity and resource protection. Projects which fall under lands mapped in the Statewide Land Conservation Plan, and those that augment or connect to existing conservation lands, and thereby help to preserve the integrity and health of the local or regional ecosystems, will receive greater consideration for funding.

PARKLAND ACQUISITION AND RENOVATION FOR COMMUNITIES: PARC Grant Program
(referenced as the Urban Self-Help Program, 301 CMR 5.00)

The PARC Program assists communities with the acquisition of parkland, as well as construction of new parks and renovation of existing parks. The priorities for this year's PARC grants include new park development, especially on parkland recovered from brownfield site clean-up, and projects that provide recreational opportunities to urban populations. Projects that serve to stabilize neighborhoods or are part of urban center revitalization efforts will be given special consideration as will those that provide for park equity in a community. Projects to build or renovate municipal golf course clubhouses are not being funded this year. Towns with a population less than 35,000 qualify for a grant if proposals are designed to provide statewide or regional recreational facilities or a maximum grant of \$50,000 for smaller recreational projects.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND PROGRAM (LWCF) (Conservation or Park Projects)
(P.L. 88-578, 16 USC 4601-4, and P.L. 100-203)

This federal grant program funds the acquisition of conservation land, the acquisition of parkland, and the renovation or development of public outdoor recreation facilities submitted from municipalities and two state agencies: the Massachusetts Departments of Conservation and Recreation and the Department of Fish and Game. Municipal projects may be considered for funding under the federal LWCF program or the appropriate DCS program – but can only be approved for funding through one grant source. Municipalities must indicate on their application that they wish to be eligible for either or both program(s). State agency and municipal application will be rated and ranked using the LWCF Rating System. The LWCF rating system does not include demographic or Commonwealth Capital points, and municipal projects compete with state agency projects. EOEEA reserves the right to fund a municipal project from the program source it deems most appropriate and most beneficial to the overall needs of the Secretariat should the applicant apply to both state and federal grant programs. Please note that while federal LWCF funds can be awarded to projects that would also qualify for either LAND or PARC funds, there are some administrative differences. Federal acquisition projects require appraisals that are done to federal "Yellow Book" appraisal standards. Federal funding does require project approval by the National Park Service, and affords an extra level of legal protection to the project site since any change of use would also require approval by the National Park Service, the federal agency that administers the LWCF program.

To learn more about these grant programs and to download an application package, please visit the DCS web page at www.mass.gov/envir/dcs. The applications are also posted on the state's procurement website at www.comm-pass.com. I recommend that communities use the application package found on the DCS web page as it is in a more user-friendly format. I invite each and every community to take advantage of this opportunity, and thank you for your partnership in land conservation and public outdoor recreation.

Sincerely,

Ian A. Bowles